APPENDIX 10 – Archaeology

Archeological Data

(Archaeological sites in the central part of Tamdytau, Navoi region of Uzbekistan.)

It should be noted that despite the fact that the Navoi region of the Republic is the largest one, there are not many archaeological and historical sites on its territory compared to other regions. The group of the Tamdytau mountain range (the maximum mark is Aktau at 922 m) located between the desert zone of the Amankum and the Karakat depression is not reach for archeological and historical sites.

The main historical and archaeological sites are located to the southeast from the project site. The only archaeological sites in this area were the ancient mining workings at the Muruntau quarry, dating from the middle of the 10th and 12th centuries AD. However, with the expansion of mining, the last ancient mine was demolished in August 1995. The observation of the destruction of the last ancient mine and its documentation was carried out by N.F. Khamidullaev. - Ch. geologist of the Zarmitan exploration expedition; Terletsky O.G. - hands. geological team of the Tashkentgeologiya Association; Klimenko B.D. - Ch. geologist Zeravshan GPE and Karasev V.A. - Head of the archaeological expedition of the "TurkestonArt" company. No other objects were found in the site under consideration.

A unique paleontological open-air museum is located in the Navoi region, about 185 km to the north-west from the site in the Uchkuduk region, 30 km from the village of Mingbulak. The petrified forest in the Jarakuduk tract is a unique natural phenomenon. According to scientific assumptions, a real stone forest grew here more than 96 million years ago as a result of the evolution of nature based on the plane trees of centuries-old trees.

Petrified trees are located in the western part of the Mingbulak Basin, 32 km from the village of Mingbulak - This system of canyons is more than 10 km long and 30 sq. km. This area is called Jurakuduk. Geological formation of coastal-marine and deltaic formations of the Late Cretaceous period. In this area, a petrified forest is well preserved, which stores the remains of many extinct animals. In total, there are more than 70 species of animals at the family level and more than 200 at the generic and species level.

Jarakuduk was studied throughout the 20th century, with short breaks. The greatest contribution to the study of this place was made by the geologist Leonid Nessov, who worked here from 1975 to 1995. Dzharakuduk is of exceptional scientific importance in terms of studying the remains of vertebrates, especially mammals. In terms of the variety and number of taxa, including endemic ones, it has no analogues in the world, and the study of this object is far from complete.

The monument has a complex structure, the age interval of deposits covers more than 10 million years. In areas of the "stone forest" the height of the preserved tree trunks reaches four meters, and the total number of preserved fragments of tree trunks is hundreds of specimens.

Large horned dinosaurs lived in the forests. In the rocks that fill the space between the "tree trunks", there are shark teeth, as well as ancient turtles.

Currently, on this site, there are traces of the once former livestock breeding kashar, which have not been used for more than thirty years.

In 10-12 km from the Muruntau settlement to the west-north, traces of natural ring structures, composed of rocks, are clearly visible. Probably, these are eroded remnants of the once existing paleovolcano. Calderas with a diameter of at least 1000 m with accompanying smaller traces of volcanic detonation in the form of ring structures with a diameter of 200 to 450 m are clearly visible on aerial photographs (Latitude / Longitude: 42 ° 0 '0 "N / 64 ° 0' 0" E. Geographic map - Navoiy Province - Esri.WorldImagery).

Exactly to the north of the Muruntau quarry (outside the site, five km away from where the construction project in the area of the wind farm (WPP) is planned), are the remains of archaeological sites (a fortified estate of ancient times and a medieval caravanserai). In addition, in the same area Several burial mounds have been identified (not studied). Thus, there are no cultural monuments in the project area. Even on aerial photographs, such objects are not noted. All these objects are located on the outskirts of the Tamdybulak village, which is located in a 30 km zone from the construction site.

It is obvious that on the territory where the construction of renewable energy sources is planned, there are no significant traces of archaeological, historical and other objects of cultural significance. It should also be noted that for final confirmation, it is possible to conduct a reconnaissance route, since this territory has not even been considered before for registration and fixation of archaeological artifacts. There are no documents relatating to this area in the archives of the Main Scientific Department for protection of cultural heritage of the Ministry of Culture Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The meeting with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has been held to consult on intangible heritage on the area , no data is available for this part of Navoi region. So far, there are no proposals for submission to UNESCO as well.

A meeting has been held at the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan to collect data on the memorial places associated with saint persons. "Golden keys" and saints Altynbay-ata and Teleu-Ata (located in 2 kilomiters proximity from the project area) are not registered in the list of memorials. The respondents noted that after independence in a number of places in the regions of Uzbekistan local people spoted holy places according to their knowledge and believes. This phenomenon arose due to various circumstances, some people wanted to draw attention to their local village, other believers thought they knew for sure about the forgotten saints. However, there is no historically confirmed documents and testimonies from chronicles of saints in this area of the Navoi region.

Only the objects of Kasym-Sheikh, Mavlono Orif Deggaroniy, Mirsaid Bahrom and the holy source in Nurata are officially known and registred ones.

The Mavlono Orif Deggaroniy Mosque is considered one of the most ancient buildings of Islamic culture in Uzbekistan. According to historians, it was erected around the 11th century A.D. It is located in the Khazara village, to the north from Navoi city.

The Kasym Sheikh Mosque is located in the village of Karmana, which is slightly north of the city of Navoi towards Bukhara. The mausoleum of Mir-Sayyid Bakhrom is also located in Karmana district.

The specialist visited the list of holy places of the Republic of Uzbekistan compiled by the Republican House of Scientific Atheism in 1974. In total, there are 102 objects in the lists and this place is not mentioned.

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